advice, the Government thought that it was not necessary to form committees. One difficulty is that if some cultivators had been appointed, as members of such a comittee some of them may happen to be the persons from whom the officers will have to purchase grains. Sometimes delicate situations may arise

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I take it, Sir, that the word 'village' refers only to the Panchayat area and not to village by village.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes, only Panchayat area.

SCARCITY OF MILK

207. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the scarcity of milk in rural areas ;

(*b*) whether they intend or propose to take any action in this matter to relieve the situation ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* My I know what steps the Government have taken?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* We have addressed the Madras Government and the Government of India to give us a quota of cattle to relieve the situation here and some 12,000 sheep have been already arranged to be imported into the State from March onwards. Government also intend prohibiting the slaughter of milch cattle. We are also going to distribute free milk to poor people and expectant mothers.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to sell the milk to people who want it.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* They are free supply made by the Red Cross and Government intended to distribute them freely.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Shall not the rich people also get milk?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Government intend to purchase also. Then it will be sold.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Are the Government aware that the scarcity of milk is due to want of fodder?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* To a certain extent it is so.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will the Government be pleased to do something in that direction?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to legislate that cattle should not be killed for another three years?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Of course that question will be considered.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are the Government aware that buffaloes and cows from Pollachi were being freely taken to Mattancheri for the supply of milk?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Not now.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* In other words since the main source of supply of milk to Mattancheri is by the bringing of cattle from Pollachi and since it has now been stopped may I know what steps have been taken to relieve the distress in Mattancheri?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* We have approached the Madras Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What steps have been taken to bring some cattle from Pollachi to Mattancheri?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* We have addressed the Madras Government to lift the ban and permit us to import the requisite number of cattle to meet our requirement.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* At what stage the matter stands at present?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government) :* Even last week we addressed a strong letter to the Government requesting that they should render all possible help in getting this ban removed because it has been proved that the real difficulty for this scarcity of milk is due to the ban of export from neighbouring provinces and districts. So to remove that we have addressed the Government of India and the Government hope that something will be done.

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Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)* : Are we to take it that the Government of Madras have not come to our rescue in the matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : They are considering the question. We have addressed them also. We addressed them first and they are considering it.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: പാലിന്റെ ചിലവു് ഇക്കൊല്ലം എത്രകണ്ടുകൂടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു അറിയുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഉത്സാഹിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? യുദ്ധം തുടങ്ങിയതിനുശേഷം ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് പാലിന്റെ ചിലവു് എത്ര കൂടുതലായി വേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു വ്യക്തമായ അറിവു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Figures are not available. But we know as a matter of fact that on account of the requirements of the military and the personnel connected with the army there has been a very large increase in the demand and just to meet that demand we are now thinking of expanding our dairies here. There are two dairies in Trippunittura and there is also another attached to the Central Farm at Trichur and the Government are contemplating to expand all these three dairies and when they are fully expanded these extra requirements on account of the military will be fully met by them and there will be sufficient milk available for the civilian requirements and over and above this when the ban is removed we will be in a good condition.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : May I know how is the requirement now met?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : My information is that it is being met by the Gosri Dairy and the Pioneer Dairy. They are supplying milk to the military contractors.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : Can you make rpresentations to the military authorities to have their own arrangements from outside?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : We are going to expand the dairies and we are going to import about thousand heads of milch cows from northern India. We are going to acquire more lands for the dairies and make large grazing grounds for cattle. We are also going to get down the necessary materials to start an up-to-date dairy.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : Can we not insist that the military should have their own dairy?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : This scheme was sponsored by the military and the Government considered that it will be very nice to encourage a local industry of this kind. In fact when the military authorities have approached us with the assurance that they would render the necessary help it is certainly for us to take full advantage of the situation.

208. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the serious handicaps the State is placed in by the Cattle Control Order in force in British Malabar;

(*b*) whether they will be pleased to approach the Madras Government to have the orders passed by the Collector of Malabar cancelled or modified?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Representations have been made to the Madras Government and the matter is also under correspondence with the Covernment of India.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Are the Government aware that because of the scarcity of cattle it has been impossible to water the cocoanut gardens in the northern taluks?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Steps are being taken.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : May I know what steps have been taken?

Mr. President : I think that question has been answered.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Yes, so far as milch cows are concerned.

Mr. President : Does not that answer also cover this?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : I thank you, Sir.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS—CLOSING OF

209. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)* : Will Government be pleased to State how many Primary Schools were closed during the year 1118 and 1119 on account of the fact that there were no teachers to work without aid from the Government?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* :

(*a*) Nil.

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